

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant	:	Masaaki Matsutani et al.	)	Group Art Unit
			)	
Serial No.	:	New Application	)	
			)	
Filed	:	Concurrently Herewith	)	
			)	
For	:	BLOOD VESSEL KNIFE	)	
			)	
Examiner	:	Unknown	)	
			)	

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Hon. Commissioner  
of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to the requirements under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97, enclosed is a form PTO-1449 listing two references that are also enclosed. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed at the time of filing and before the receipt of a first Office Action on the merits, and no fee is required in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(1) and (3). The prior art references are:

(1) U.S. Patent No. 5,342,379 entitled "SAFETY SCALPEL" and issued to Volinsky on August 30, 1994.

(2) U.S. Patent No. 6,500,187 entitled "SCALPEL WITH A DOUBLE GRIND BLADE EDGE AND DETACHABLE HANDLE" and issued to Petersen on December 31, 2002.

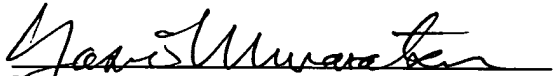
Applicant respectfully requests that the listed references be considered in the substantive examination of this case.

Serial No. : New Application  
Filed : Concurrently Herewith

Respectfully submitted,

MURAMATSU & ASSOCIATES

Dated: 10/27/2003

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
				Application Number	
				Filing Date	10/27/2003
				First Named Inventor	Masao Ki Matsutani
				Group Art Unit	
				Examiner Name	
				Attorney Docket Number	NAKAKURA.023AUS
Sheet	1	of	1		

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Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup> See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

**Burden Hour Statement:** This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U. S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO:** Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.